several petitions to Government, the Deputy Commissioner and other officers to do so;

(*h*) if so, when;

(*i*) whether any penal water-rate and fines are being levied on the lands cultivated by the seepage water under the tank;

(*j*) if so, on how many acres this is being levied every year;

(*k*) since when it is being collected?

A.—**The CHIEF SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT (Rajasevaprasakta B. T. Kesavaiengar).**—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Between 1912 and 1916. Correct information is not, however, available readily.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) On 2nd October 1912. Rs. 300.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Action is being taken in the matter.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) From time to time.

(*i*) It is reported that whenever the raiyats used water unauthorisedly, the delinquents were dealt with under the rules.

(*j*) and (*k*) Information is not readily available.

Mr. G. RAMIAH.—What is the reason for not defining the *atchkat* under the tank till now even though the tank was restored so long back as 1912?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—We shall ascertain the reason.

Mr. G. RAMIAH.—Is the answer to (*e*) correct?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.— That is the information before the Government.

Mr. G. RAMAIH.— To what lands is water being supplied at present?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.— To the *atchkat* lands.

Mr. G. RAMIAH.— When the *atchkat* itself is not defined, how can water be said to be supplied to it?

The MINISTER for REVENUE and FINANCE (Rajamantrapravina K. V. Anantaraman).— What is the trouble now? Is not water being supplied at all?

Mr. G. RAMIAH.— No; and where seepage water is used for raising some crop, penal water-rate is levied. That is the trouble. Secondly, unless water is given for cultivation, the object of either constructing or restoring the tank cannot be said to have been fulfilled.

Mr. K. V. ANANTARAMAN.—Government will take the necessary action in the matter.

Mr. G. S. SUBBA RAO.— Is this a major or a minor tank?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.— I shall let the member have the information presently.

Mr. G. S. SUBBA RAO.—Subsequent to the restoration of the tank in 1912, is the annual maintenance being attended to regularly?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.— Perhaps so.

Mr. G. S. SUBBA RAO.— Have not the people been requesting that these lands should be included in the regular *atchkat* of the tank and that penal rate should not be charged for the use of the seepage water for raising crops?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.— Notice.

Mr. G. S. SUBBA RAO.—Since how long is the correspondence going on?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.— Notice. We have not been able to trace it.

Mr. K. V. ANANTARAMAN.—We shall get the lands included in the *atchkat*.

Mr. G. S. SUBBA RAO.— After these lands are included in the *atchkat*, will the Government remit the penal rate collected all these years?

Mr. K. V. ANANTARAMAN.— Even after the lands are included in the *atchkat* if water is not supplied, then that question will arise. Whether the collections of previous years could be remitted is a question which will have to be examined.

Mr. P. V. K. Murthy's Suicide.

Q.—8. **Mr. K. GANGA SETTY** (Small Industries).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether it has come to their notice that an Electrical Department official by name Mr. P. V. K. Murthy committed suicide;

(*b*) if so, whether it is true that he has left behind letters setting out reasons for his suicide;

(*c*) whether those reasons are connected with the administration of the department or with his office ;

(*d*) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter of investigating the circumstances which led to his suicide ?

A.—The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT (Mr. M. G. Mehkri).—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Both.

(*d*) None, as it was found unnecessary to make any further enquiries.

Mr. K. GANGA SETTY.—In view of the answer to (*d*), will the Government consider now at least the desirability of appointing a committee for ascertaining the circumstances which led to the tragedy and letting the public know the same ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—That question had already come up before Government and the appointment of a committee was considered unnecessary.

Mr. A. NANJUNDA SETTY.—With reference to answer to (*a*), may I know what kind of a suicide it was that the deceased committed ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Suicide by hanging.

Mr. A. NANJUNDA SETTY.—Did the Deputy Commissioner visit the scene of tragedy ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I understand so.

Mr. A. NANJUNDA SETTY.—Did you also go there ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Yes.

Mr. A. NANJUNDA SETTY.—What was happening at the time you went there ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—The body was in charge of the police and the *mahazar* was not yet over.

Mr. K. NANJUNDA RAO.—Is there no difference between an ordinary person committing suicide and a highly paid responsible officer of Government doing so ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I do not think there is any difference. In matters of death, it is all the same

Mr. K. NANJUNDA RAO.—When other cases of suicide were reported in the past, was there so much commotion in the public mind ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Whoever commits suicide, it is usual for the public to feel for him.

Mr. K. NANJUNDA RAO.—Has any such case come up for so much discussion on the floor of this House ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Notice.

Mr. K. NANJUNDA RAO.—Does not the volley of questions put in this House indicate that this is a very important matter ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. K. NANJUNDA RAO.—Do the Government see that the public are very much agitated over this particular case ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Not only for this, but for every such case of loss of human life, everybody including Government will feel sorry.

Mr. K. NANJUNDA RAO.—At least in view of the discussions that have taken place here, will the Government consider the question of instituting an enquiry into the matter ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—That question has already been answered.

Mr. K. NANJUNDA RAO.—Is there not some difference between this case and others ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—There may be difference between every two cases.

Mr. T. S. RAJAGOPALA IYENGAR.—In the course of answers furnished to supplementary questions earlier, in the session (on 6th October 1941), it was stated that in the reports submitted by Mr. P. V. K. Murthy, he had not set out any reasons for the step he took, but merely abused the Chief Electrical Engineer. But in the answer to (*b*) of the present question, Government say that reasons for committing suicide were set out in the letters left by Mr. Murthy. Which of the two answers is correct ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—The other question was whether any allegations against the Chief Electrical Engineer had been made

Mr. T. S. RAJAGOPALA IYENGAR.—I asked whether any reasons were mentioned in the letters.

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—But the answer that the member referred to was given in reply to another question.

Mr. T. S. RAJAGOPALA IYENGAR.—Had any reasons been mentioned at all in the letters?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—That question has already been answered.

Mr. T. S. RAJAGOPALA IYENGAR.—The Secretary was pleased to say on the previous occasion that he would get the papers and make them available to us. Will they be read out now at least?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I have already said that it is not necessary to read them. They are not with me now.

Mr. T. S. RAJAGOPALA IYENGAR.—Will they be made available at least by tomorrow?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Copies will be made available to the member for such use as he may wish to make of them.

Mr. T. S. RAJAGOPALA IYENGAR.—Can they not be read here?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—There is no need to read the letters here. Almost all the members must have read them.

Mr. T. S. RAJAGOPALA IYENGAR.—If there is no objection, they may be read in the House tomorrow. The members of the House also must know the reasons as set out by Mr. Murthy.

Mr. PRESIDENT.—If so, the member may read the letters in the course of the informal exchange of views after 5 P.M.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—Do the words "I am damned by the Government for the very work for which I was specially deputed by them" appear in the letters of Mr. P. V. K. Murthy?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Notice.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—The letters must have come to the possession of the Government by now.

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—But I must look into them before giving an answer to the question.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—Was not Mr. Murthy appointed as Electric Inspector with a view to locate technical defects and suggest methods to rectify them?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Yes.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—Was not that appointment created for the first time and Mr. Murthy posted to it?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Yes.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—Was not this post created because there were many allegations against the department and differences of opinion arose on the question whether it should be power of 25-cycle frequency or 50-cycle frequency that should be generated at Jog and the Government needed reliable technical advice on the question?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—If the member reads the Government Order sanctioning the appointment, he will see that the reasons as stated by him are not correct. Mr. Murthy was appointed for reporting on cases of accidents, defects in meter reading, etc., and not to carry on any C.I.D. work. If there were disputes between the department and the consumer, Mr. Murthy was asked to look into the matter and report to Government in the matter.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—Was he not also entrusted with certain items of work not mentioned in the Government Order?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Not that I am aware of. But Government might have entrusted him with particular items of work.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—And in respect of such matters, could there have been differences of opinion between him and the Head of the Department?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—That is more than I can say.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—And in respect of those matters, though Mr. Murthy was unwilling, did the Government insist upon his making enquiries and reports?

Mr. B. CHAMIAH.—There have been two or three questions on this one subject alone and they have been discussed at sufficient length. The time of the House should not be wasted on only one subject. I request the President to see that no more questions are allowed on it.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—Did the Police examine Sir Harold N. Colam and other concerned officers in the course of their enquiry?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Notice.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—The other day it was stated that nothing

could be done to prevent neurotics from committing suicide. Has the police investigation in this particular case established that Mr. Murthy was neurotic?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—If you asked for medical opinion you would be told that suicide is always comitted by neurotics or persons in a state of temporary insanity.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—Was medical opinion taken in this case?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—There was no necessity for doing that because the suicide had already been committed. And the letters of Mr. Murthy prove that it was a clear case of suicide.

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—Does the statement that Mr. Murthy was neurotic at the time of committing the suicide represent the considered opinion of Government or the personal opinion of any particular individuals?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—At any rate, I cannot say whether he was neurotic or not at the time. I can only say that till that evening he was quite all right and that in the night, he committed suicide. How can I say what he was in the meanwhile?

Mr. B. R. PUTTANANJAPPA.—So, when you saw him last, he was not neurotic?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—No.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH.—Do not all these questions as well as the adjournment motion pertaining to the same subject indicate to Government that the public are not in favour of Mr. Forbes being kept on any longer in the State?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—The question is about Mr. Murthy and not about extension of Mr. Forbes services. So, that does not arise as a supplementary question.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH.—As this tragedy has occurred on account of Mr. Forbes, do the Government grant that the services of that officer should no longer be utilised?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—That is not a supplementary question.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—In both the letters of Mr. Murthy, he has stated that there are many irregularities in the department. Have the Government found out what those irregularities are?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Government are not aware of any irregularities. When the letters are made available to the member, he can himself try and find out whether there are any.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—Are not the letters in the file now and cannot the Secretary verify and tell us whether they do not refer to the existence of irregularities in the department?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—No.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—If it is a fact that grave irregularities exist, whose money must have been lost: is it the Government's or Mr. Murthy's or of the subjects of the State?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Unfortunately the letters do not enable me to answer that question.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—Are the Government prepared to agree with me and to take necessary further action if I say that the letters do make mention of many irregularities in the department?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—We will have to see the letters.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—It is stated in the letters that Sir Harold N. Colam compelled him to make certain reports to Government. In view of that statement, did Government examine Sir Colam?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—No.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—Did they at least ask him if that was a fact?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—No.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—They did not think it necessary to do so?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—No.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—And the Government were not aware that there were irregularities either?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—No.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—They are not aware even now, how much money has been lost.

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—It is not possible to say that.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—Has Mr. Murthy written in one of his

letters that "in future it will be very difficult to establish the truth?"

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Notice.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—I say that he has; and I ask whether the Government will make the necessary enquiries.

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—It is a hypothetical question

Mr. PRESIDENT.—If there is, *prima facie*, any foundation for an allegation. it can be gone into. Government cannot enquire into all vague allegations.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—There is a hope on the part of the public that if only an enquiry is instituted, the truth can be found out even now. That is why I am stressing that aspect of the question.

Mr. PRESIDENT.—That is not a supplementary question. It is more in the nature of a suggestion.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—Yes. We have to go into all those details because the Secretary to Government says that he has not got the letters before him. I beg of the Government to promise an enquiry even now in view of the fact that the deceased has definitely stated that he has not sacrificed himself for nothing. That shows that an enquiry is sure to lead to some discovery.

Mr. PRESIDENT.—The member can discuss these points in connection with Representation No. 194, when it comes up.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—I would like to have some fnrther particulars before that representation is taken up.

Mr. PRESIDENT.—The member seems to be already in possession of more information than Government.

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—Has not this case led to some apprehension on the part of the public?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I do not know that. But about the fact that he committed suicide. there is no doubt whatever.

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—To allay the apprehension, what action are the Government going to take?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I do not know what the apprehension is.

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—Have the Government themselves no apprehension?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—No.

Mr. SYED ABDUL RAHIMAN.—With reference to answer to (*d*), do the Government consider that this case is only one of many and that there is nothing unusual about it?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Yes.

Mr. SYED ABDUL RAHIMAN.—Has this House attached to cases of suicide in the past so much importance as in the present case?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I do not know.

Mr. SYED ABDUL RAHIMAN.—However, since the House feels that this is not a simple case but an unusual one, will the Government appoint an enquiry committee to go into it?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—As has been stated more than once already, Government are of opinion that it is not necessary to form a committee.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—Since this question is being stressed for the past two days, do not the Government realise that this is an important matter and that members of the House are greatly agitated over it?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—That is the impression I gather.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—Also from the amount of attention bestowed on this case by the House, do the Government see that this is a very important matter?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I cannot say anything about its importance or otherwise.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—Does that mean that all that the members have said and asked during all these two or three days goes to waste?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I cannot say.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—Does the Secretary, then, think that the members of the House waste so much of their time on trivial questions?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I did not say that.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—Even after so much of discussion, if this is the attitude of the Government, we can only be sorry for it.

Mr. PRESIDENT.—The member should not comment on the answers furnished in the House.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—At least in view of all this discussion, do the Government concede that this is an important question ; or do they still entertain any doubt about it ?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—I want to know whether in the opinion of the Government, this is not an important question. I appeal to the President to ask the Secretary to give a definite answer to the question.

Mr. PRESIDENT.—He has given a definite reply, namely, that it is a matter of opinion.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—Will the Government at least now agree to constitute a committee of enquiry in view of the fact that the House is unanimously of that opinion ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Government have no such idea.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—Is not the House entitled to that much of consideration at the hands of the Government ?

Mr PRESIDENT.—That is not a supplementary question.

Mrs. H. S. MADHAVA RAO.—This question is being discussed for the past three days. My feeling in the matter is that, if there was anything wrong on the part of any officer, Government would surely punish him. That Mr. Murthy has left certain letters may be true, but the questions that are being put here seem to be without any basis.

Srimathi SUNANDAMMA.—I rise to a point of order. The member is making statements and raising a discussion and not asking questions.

Mr. PRESIDENT.—I am afraid it is so.

Mrs. H. S. MADHAVA RAO.—My only purpose is to point out that these questions are all unnecessary.

Mr. PRESIDENT.—Even that could be done in the form of supplementary questions.

Mrs. H. S. MADHAVA RAO.—Sir, Harold N. Colam is stated to have told Mr. Murthy that he was unfit because he could not defend himself. That has been confirmed by Mr. Murthy himself.

Srimathi SUNANDAMMA.—Is there no ruling on my point of order. Mr. President ?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—Such a discussion at question time is not in order.

Mr. M. N. JOIS.—Have the Government perused the letters of Mr. Murthy as published in the newspapers ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Yes.

Mr. M. N. JOIS.—Have they also perused the letter addressed by Mr. Murthy to Government themselves ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Yes.

Mr. M. N. JOIS.—Are they both copies of one and the same letter ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I think so.

Mr. M. N. JOIS.—In the letters as published in the papers certain blanks were indicated by dots or dashes. Are those blanks indicated in the letter sent to Government also ?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—I would ask the member to consider whether that is also a relevant or necessary question.

Mr. M. N. JOIS.—The dots and dashes are a most imporant feature in this unfortunate affair.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Who were all the other officers who were present with the Secretary when Mr. Murthy saw him on the day on which he committed suicide ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I do not remember.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Were the Law Minister and Mr. Forbes also present ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Might have been.

Mr. U. L. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—Members of the House strongly urge that an enquiry committee should be formed. Will the Government comply with their request ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—If that question comes up in that form, I shall give an answer.

Extensions of Service to the Chief Justice.

Q.—10. **Sri. PUTTAMMA** (Bangalore District Women's Constituency).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) when the present Chief Justice was appointed and on what conditions ;

(*b*) how many times he has been given extensions and for what periods ?